



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***ECONOMIC RESEARCH DIVISION CONSOLIDATES
UNDER DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Agencies combine resources to provide improved service to Arizona***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano announced the consolidation of Arizona’s economic research under one department – providing more efficient and accurate economic analysis and forecasting to Arizona communities, businesses, planners, lawmakers, economists and others.

The Arizona Department of Commerce (ADOC) will now house the two the economic research functions previously at both Commerce and the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). The consolidation is part of the Governor’s mandate to modernize state government, improve the quality of services provided to the public, and enable the two agencies to focus on their core missions: DES on social services, and Commerce on economic development.

“This project will bring together the two critical pieces of economic data and information in one shop, capturing synergies, improving stakeholder relations, enhancing access to critical data needed by communities and businesses, and resulting in better aligning the missions of both agencies,” said Governor Napolitano.

The combined Research Administration will be responsible for conducting labor and population research, and producing statistical information that will continue to be used statewide to generate economic forecasts.

“These professionals provide an excellent resource to economic forecasters across Arizona,” said Jan Leshner, director of the Arizona Department of Commerce. “This consolidation will enable improved information sharing, and increase the quality of research data that the state produces.”

Various public entities, such as cities, townships and counties, have come to rely on data that is compiled by state researchers at DES and Commerce. Those entities will benefit from more timely information, housed at one agency rather than two separate departments.

Monthly unemployment statistics compiled and released monthly by DES will continue to be put together by the same staff. The numbers will come from ADOC beginning in January.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.